

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03956 01 OF 02 091812Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06 /082 W

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R 091801Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7060

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PARM, GW

SUBJECT: FRG MEDIA REACTION TO GENSCHER "NEWSWEEK"
INTERVIEW

REFS: A. BONN 3574 DTG 031750Z MAR 76

B. BONN 2954 DTG 201827Z FEB 76

1. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S INTERVIEW "COMMUNIST
AIMS ARE UNCHANGING" IN THE MARCH 15 ISSUE OF THE EURO-
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PAGE 02 BONN 03956 01 OF 02 091812Z

PEAN EDITION OF "NEWSWEEK" HAS ATTRACTED EARLY MEDIA

ATTENTION IN THE FRG, WITH EMPHASIS PLACED ON HIS REJECTION OF COOPERATION WITH WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES AND HIS HARD LINE VIS-A-VIS PRESENT INTERNATIONAL POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION.

2. IN A FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE STORY ENTITLED GENSCHER IN CONTRAST TO SCHMIDT CRITICIZES MOSCOW," THE MARCH 9 ISSUE OF "DIE WELT" CLAIMED GENSCHER'S VIEW THAT MOSCOW'S AFRICA POLICY "IS A STRAIN ON THE WHOLE POLICY OF DETENTE" CONTRADICTED A RECENT STATEMENT BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT (REFTEL A) THAT DETENTE IS NOT THEREBY AFFECTED. THE ARTICLE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT IN MIAMI CONCERNING DETENTE, THE WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN WARNING ALMOST DAILY AGAINST FORMING ILLUSORY HOPES ABOUT A RELAXATION IN EAST-WEST TENSIONS. "DIE WELT" ALSO REPORTED IN THIS ARTICLE ON A STATEMENT MADE YESTERDAY BY GENSCHER AT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IN WHICH HE REJECTED SOVIET CLAIMS THAT THE BERLIN FOUR-POWER

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PAGE 01 BONN 03956 02 OF 02 091813Z

42

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R 091801Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7061

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AGREEMENT MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A RESTRICTIVE DOCUMENT.

3. BONN'S "GENERAL-ANZEIGER" IN A HEADLINE STORY TODAY SUMMARIZED THE GENSCHER INTERVIEW, AND NOTED THAT IT IS BEING GIVEN CLOSE ATTENTION IN BONN. THIS "GA" STORY, ENTITLED "THE SOVIET UNION REMAINS ON AN EXPANSIONIST COURSE," STRESSED GENSCHER'S CONCERN ABOUT THE INSUF-
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PAGE 02 BONN 03956 02 OF 02 091813Z

FICIENCY OF DEFENSE EFFORTS BY SOME NATO COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS HIS UNEASE ABOUT PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO RESTRICT U.S. GOVERNMENT MANEUVERABILITY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

4. THE PRINCIPAL EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR ON THE GENSCHER INTERVIEW APPEARED IN THE MARCH 9 ISSUE OF THE "FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE" UNDER THE HEADING "GENSCHER'S REALITY." IT SUPPORTED THE DECLARATIONS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, CLAIMED THAT THESE "COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE TEXT OF A SPEECH BY CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS," AND SURMISED THAT, AS A RESULT, THE SOVIET UNION IS LIABLE TO BE VERY UNHAPPY WITH GENSCHER. COMMENT: ON THE ONE HAND GENSCHER'S INTERVIEW CAN BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT FRG UNEASE ABOUT THE U.S. WORLD ROLE AFTER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON (SEE REFTEL B). AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, GENSCHER'S STATEMENTS, PARTICULARLY ABOUT "DETENTE" AND SOVIET EXPANSIONISM, SUGGEST FURTHER HARDENING ON HIS PART TOWARD COMMUNISTS, WHETHER IN MOSCOW OR IN THE HEAD-
QUARTERS OF THE PCI AND PCF.

THE EMBASSY WILL POUCH SEPARATELY COPIES OF THE GENSCHER INTERVIEW TO THE DEPARTMENT (EUR/CE, INR/REW).

HILLENBRAND

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